In general, kinship is considered close up to the fourth generation; beyond this, kinship is taken note of but is not considered a marriage impediment. Interestingly, relations on the maternal line are given more attention than the paternal relatives. There are other phenomena also which are generally considered to be survivals of an ancient matrilinear system, among which the most important is the use of the mother's family name as a surname. It has also been reported that, sporadically, the mother's Christian name is used as a middle name which is otherwise practically unknown in the country, or even that the mother's Christian and family names are compounded and given to the child as a surname (e.g. Szó Kisboris Andris). As a rule, such practices are resorted to only for practical reasons when the father's family name is very common. In the region of the Balaton (and among the Székler), however, when a poor boy marries a girl from a rich family, he often takes her family name as his surname and even loses his own later on and is referred to by the townspeople by his wife's name.

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The marriageable age for Hungarian boys is considered to be around 17, and for girls 15. Marriage patterns are endogamic, for seldom do young people marry outside their own townships. In some villages, the proper thing to do is to marry a person living on the same street or in the same section. The influence of elders is decisive with regard to marriage;

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